



THE CHICAGO ACTIVATOR



THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF AFTRA-SAG CHICAGO

Issue: #1

January 8, 2010

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Monday, February 8

AFTRA Annual Membership Meeting
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Social Hour**
6:30 p.m. **Meeting**
Kaufherr Members Resource Center
Special Guest to be announced!

Monday, February 22

KMRC Presents a Voiceover Workshop with Norm Woodel
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Social Hour**
6:30 - 9:30 p.m. **Workshop**
Watch *The Activator* for registration and workshop details.

16th Annual SAG Awards Saturday, Jan. 23 on TNT and TBS at 7 p.m. (CT) *Final Ballots Mailed to Nearly 100,000 Eligible Members Nationwide*

Ballots to select the recipients of the 16th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards for outstanding performances in 2009 in five film and eight primetime television categories and for the SAG honors for film and television stunt ensembles were mailed on December 29 to the entire paid-up active membership of Screen Actors Guild across the country by the SAG Awards official election teller, Integrity Voting Systems. Nearly 100,000 actors received ballots and may vote by mail or secure Internet e-balloting.

Votes must be received by noon PST on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010, at Integrity Voting Systems, where results will be tallied and sealed until they are opened by the presenters at the 16th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards ceremonies on Saturday, Jan. 23 at the Los Angeles Shrine Exposition Center.

Screening information for nominated films can be found at sagawards.org. As of Jan. 5, there are no screenings scheduled for Chicago. If you haven't already, visit

sagawardsRSVP.org to register your e-mail address to receive awards updates and screening notifications throughout the voting period.

AFTRA's Hedgpeth Named to 2010 Economic Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

AFTRA National Executive Director Kim Roberts Hedgpeth has been named to the 2010 Twelfth District Economic Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco provides wholesale banking services to financial institutions throughout the nine western states. As the nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve System formulates monetary policy, serves as a bank regulator, administers consumer protection laws and is fiscal agent for the U.S. government.

Economic Advisory Council members provide information on current and pending developments in the regional and national economy. In their role, Economic Advisory Council members represent their industries by providing observations and opinions to the board of directors and management of the San Francisco Fed on the present state of the economy, and the developments within their area of expertise.

Hedgpeth has served as the National Executive Director of AFTRA since 2005 and is the first African-American woman to serve as the chief executive staff person of a national entertainment industry union.

Casting for Extras for Chicago Feature Film

Working under the SAG Ultra Low Budget Agreement, the feature film *Fall Away* is casting extras. Written and directed by award winning filmmaker [Julian Grant](#), and produced by Boris Wexler, this is an opportunity to participate in a professional film project and spend time on set.

If you are interested, send an e-mail with "FALL AWAY EXTRAS" in the subject line to ironmistproductions@gmail.com. Include the dates/times that you are available, your full name, phone number, and e-mail address. Please attach a picture-not necessarily a headshot, any picture is acceptable. This is an unpaid position and not covered under the terms of a SAG agreement.

Some of the available slots are odd or nighttime hours. Production Coordinator Brian Johnston asks that you please try to make yourself available for at least one of those times.

Saturday 1/16, 2 - 8 a.m. (bar scene)

Saturday 1/16, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (bar scene)

Monday 1/18, 7 - 11 a.m. (record shop scene)

Friday 1/22, 4 p.m.- 5 a.m. (diner scene)

Several groups needed in five-hour timeslots. Please submit times available.

Saturday 1/30, 3 - 9 a.m. (bar scene)

Sunday 1/31, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. (park scene)

Saturday 2/6, 2 - 10 a.m. (bar scene)

Full Stream Ahead

with the Screen Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild Foundation's LifeRaft Live Stream Program

Taking place live and streamed online, the SAG Foundation's LifeRaft "business of acting" seminars share significant industry knowledge with Guild members everywhere. The 2010 program will begin January 12 and continue for 15 weeks every Tuesday, 8-10 p.m. (CT).

The first seminar features SAG-franchised agents and moderator Zino Macaluso, SAG's national director/senior counsel, agency relations. Other subjects in the series include casting directors, taxes and money management, contracts, creating a demo reel, and young performers' issues.

To participate, Guild members should simply visit sagfoundation.org/liferaft/livestream at the scheduled time and follow instructions. Guild members can submit questions during the events via e-mail to Liferaft@sagfoundation.org.

Tuesday, January 12, 8-10 p.m. (CT)

SAG Agency Department: An Evening with Agents

Explore the agent-performer relationship with a panel of SAG-franchised agents.

Tuesday, January 19, 8-10 p.m. (CT)

An Evening with Commercial Casting Directors

Learn from a stellar panel of casting directors how to be most effective in the audition room and what it takes to book a commercial job.

Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 8-10 p.m. (CT)

SAG Contracts Corner: Commercials 101 for Principals*

Empower yourself with a greater understanding of the Commercials Contract.

Tuesday, February 2, 8-10 p.m. (CT)

Actor Taxes and Essential Money Management

Improve your financial health with topics tailored to the actor, including expense deductions, investment options and budgeting on a sporadic income.

For more information and the complete 15-week schedule, visit sagfoundation.org.

AFTRA Foundation to Honor Juanes, Robin Roberts and the Cast of *Sesame Street* with

2010 AFTRA Media and Entertainment Excellence Awards

Sam Moore, Charles Osgood to Receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

AFTRA has announced the recipients of the AFTRA Foundation's 2010 AFTRA Media and Entertainment Excellence Awards (The AMEES). Receiving honors will be Spanish-language recording artist Juanes, broadcast journalist Robin Roberts and the past and present cast members of *Sesame Street*.

Broadcast veteran Charles Osgood and music legend Sam Moore will be honored with

AMEE Lifetime Achievement Awards for decades of excellence in their respective fields.

The honorees will receive their awards at the AMEES dinner gala benefit at the Plaza Hotel in New York on February 22.

"The diversity and caliber of our 2010 AMEE honorees is breathtaking. The AFTRA Foundation is proud to honor these talented and dedicated AFTRA members, each of whom has made enormous contributions to the fields of entertainment and news media," said Shelby Scott, AFTRA Foundation president and former AFTRA national president.

The AMEES were created in 2003 to honor AFTRA members for excellence in their craft and their contributions to the fields of media and entertainment. Proceeds from the 2010 AMEE Awards go to benefit the AFTRA Foundation, an independent non-profit organization separate from AFTRA that provides support to charitable and educational endeavors critical to AFTRA members. More information about the honorees and the event is available at AFTRA.com.

ALL ABOARD iActor 3.0

Online Casting Database Now Simpler and Faster

Screen Actors Guild has announced new enhancements to the iActor online casting database (iactor.org). The new features enable actors to create profiles that reflect their talents more accurately than ever. The upgrades also make talent searches more focused and easier, a significant benefit for casting agents, producers, new media developers and others needing to cast their projects.

"We recognize that the modern casting process has been refined over many decades, and our goal is to extend the best features of time-tested casting methods into the online space," said Steve Graham, national director of digital marketing for SAG.

"We're committed to refining iActor on an ongoing basis to support its functionality and position as a go-to source for the entertainment industry."

"iActor is part of an ongoing effort to utilize technology to better serve our members and our industry partners," said David White, national executive director of SAG. "We will continue to refine our approach and find ways to upgrade the experience, which adds value to the casting process and provides another useful tool for actors to have in their toolkit."

The enhancements are geared toward providing actors with the ability to further personalize their online profiles to better capture their unique attributes that will influence the casting decision. They also improve the functionality of the site by reducing the number of steps needed to perform common tasks.

The enhancements include:

Profile enhancements

- Improves published resumes by providing both PDF and HTML formats for more flexibility
- Offers additional options for actor body type, ethnicity and special skills
- Adds description fields for "voice quality" and "sound-alikes" to voice-over resume
- Adds a new integrated media slideshow
- Updates options for gender

- Adds the ability to create custom credit types for more control and flexibility

Functionality enhancements

- Adds drag-and-drop functionality throughout the site for superior ease of use
- Allows the ability to include a mini headshot on printed resume
- Allows the ability to update business contact numbers within iActor
- Combines "Actors to Locate" with iActor search to provide results for all SAG members
- Adds the ability to publish multiple resumes to public sites
- Changes the way languages are selected; adds options for proficiency and accents or dialects
- Allows additional cross-platform interfaces to share data with third-party casting services

iActor is Screen Actors Guild's proprietary online casting database, populated exclusively by SAG members. Launched in 2007, the online resource provides industry professionals with automated Station 12 clearance, detailed actor resumes and multimedia files. It is provided as a free service to all SAG members and is accessible by the industry at no charge. For more information, visit iactor.org or e-mail info@iactor.org.

Special Schedule for Office and KMRC

Friday, January 15 Office and KMRC Close at 1 p.m.

Monday, January 18 Office and KMRC Closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

In response to the members' request to stay informed, *The Activator* may include notice of rallies, pickets and other actions by unions and the labor movement that have not been sanctioned by the National or Chicago Board of Directors of AFTRA or SAG. This information is provided as a convenience.

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